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## Convention Musings and Interesting Finds

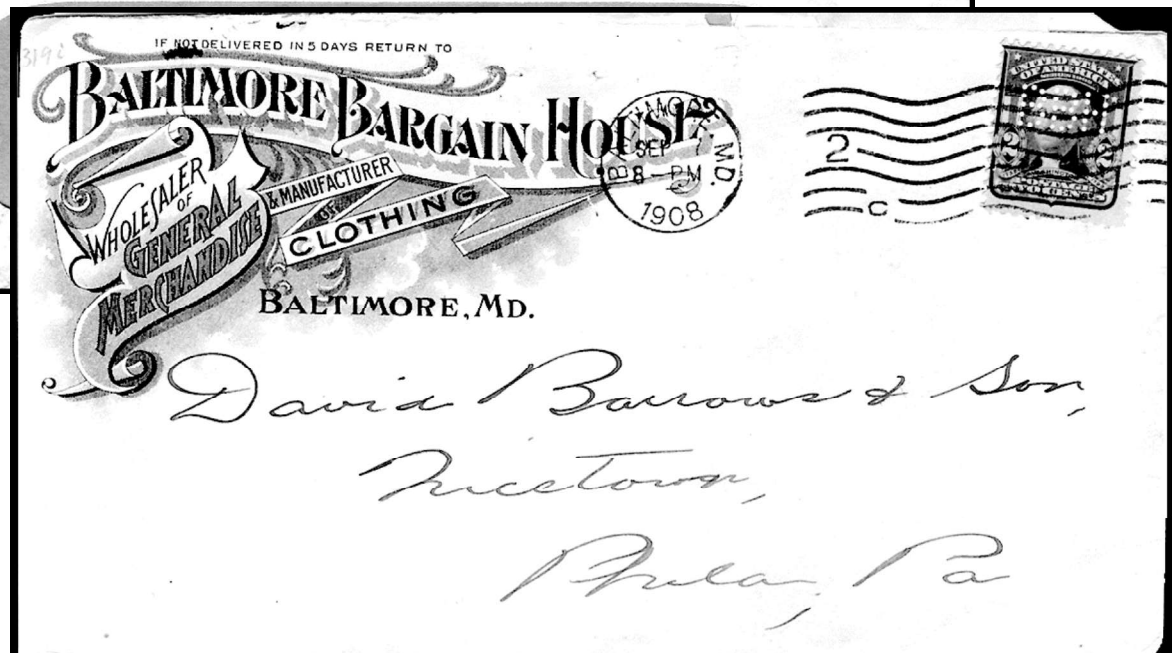
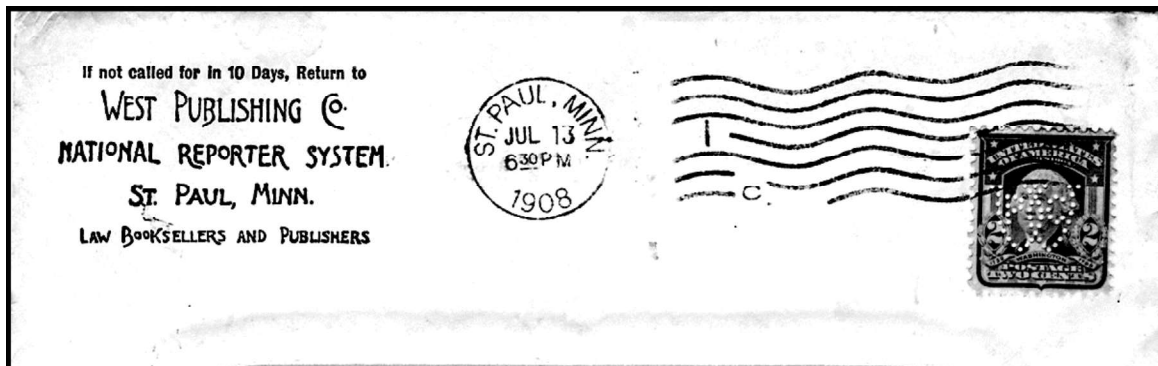
Bob Szymanski (LM 145)

If you have never had the pleasure of attending a Perfin Convention (held each July/August with the Precancel Society,) you are really missing something. Normally, close to 40 fellow perfin collectors manage to find the time and the way to the convention site; Madison, WI this year and St. Louis, MO in 2008. If you only came for the thousands of perfins that were there, you would have had a great time, but I truly believe that most members have at least as great a time visiting, learning, eating, sightseeing and socializing with fellow collectors. You can make many contacts, but most importantly, many life long collector friends!

Here a few of the interesting items that I discovered and purchased or traded for in Madison.

### EKU's

The first two covers are interesting as nice, early perfin covers from 1908 - the first year that perfins were allowable in US postage. What makes these two items very special to me is that I have an "earliest perfin usage State cover collection". Unbelievably, both covers were not only the earliest usage for my collection but are also the EKU (earliest known usage) for each of the States - Maryland and Minnesota! Most interestingly, if you check the last *Perfins Bulletin* listing of State EKU's (September 2001), each cover predates by EXACTLY ONE DAY the previous EKU cover AND both are from the same user listed !!!!

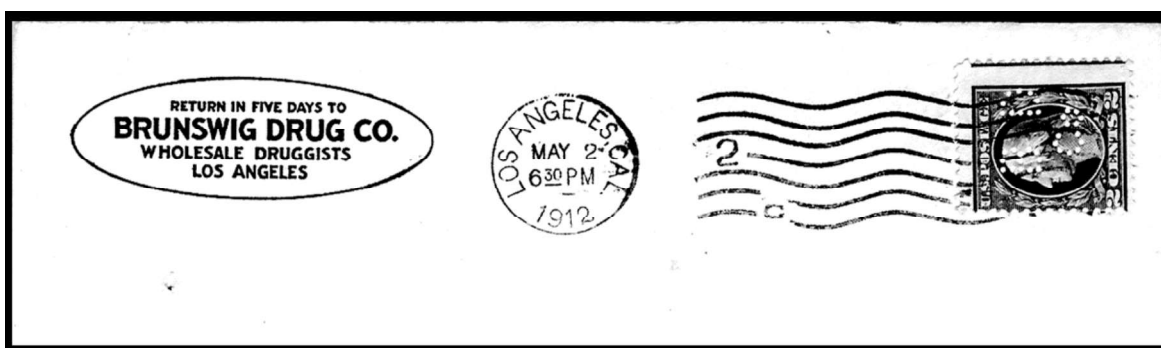


Check your perfin covers against this list and you may find that you have a new EKU! Maybe in the near future the Editor will rerun this list for those new members whose membership postdates September 2001. In the interim, should anyone desire a copy of the list, please e-mail me at [perfinman@comcast.net](mailto:perfinman@comcast.net) and I will be happy to e-mail you a copy.

### Bulletin Identifications and Additions-and-Corrections

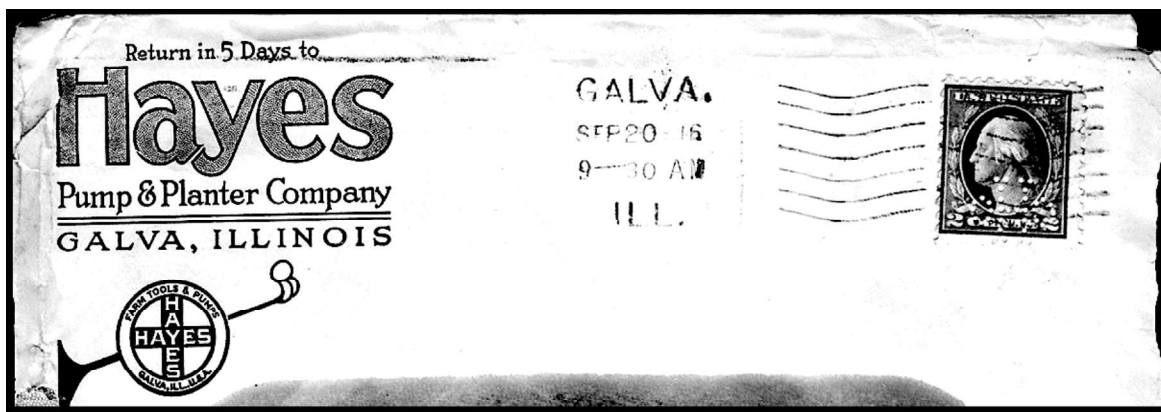
I found several other covers that add useful information for the US Catalog editor to update our knowledge of the perfins and their users.

The first cover (with perfin B87, "C" rated [cropped below]) is from the Brunswick Drug Co. Wholesale Druggist in Los Angeles, CA. This 1912 cover provides a correction to the spelling of the user's name from Brunswick to Brunswig.



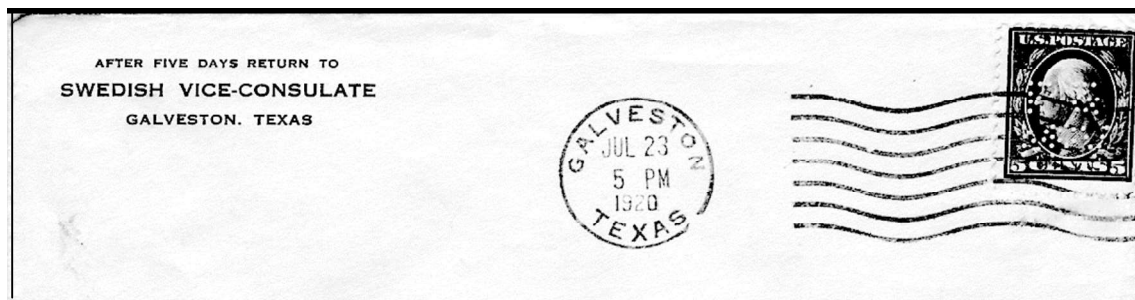
The second cover (with perfin C156, "C" rated [cropped below]) is from the Hayes Pump & Planter Company. If you had received this cover in the mail, it would not have gone unnoticed. It is a deep

"taxicab" yellow in color. The spelling of the user's name on this cover corrects the US Catalog as it reads "HAYES", not "HAYS".



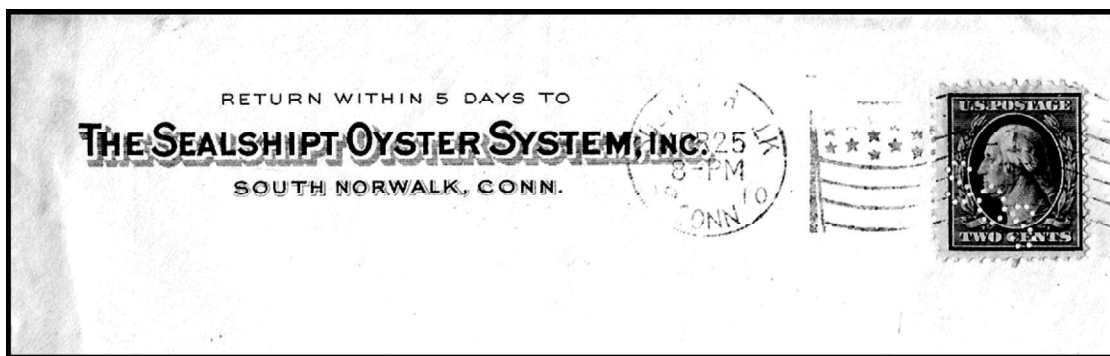
The third cover (with perfin F229 "B" rated [cropped on next page]) is not identified in the US Perfin Catalog. It is mailed from Galveston, TX, by the Swedish Vice-Consulate using the correct 5 cent rate to Sweden. Since the perfin is F&/McV, it is not a

very good match but might give us a clue to start searching for the meaning of the letters. Perhaps member Stellan Swenson, in Sweden, who collects US perfins that are Swedish related, might have a leg up at discovering the identity of the user.



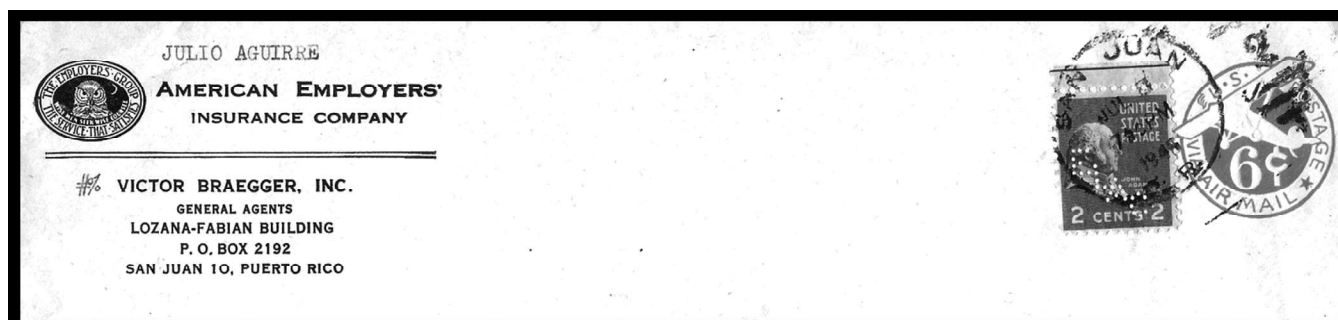
The fourth cover (with perfin S205A, "A" rated [cropped below]) is a very nice discovery'. Not only does it identify another user but also corrects the spelling of the user identified for S205 currently listed to "SEALSHIPMENT". Patterns S205 and S205A are so similar that the only way that I was certain that this cover was the S205A was to compare the pattern with my single, off-cover copy

of the S205 pattern. The only noticeable difference was that the size of the holes was slightly larger and spaces between the holes were somewhat smaller on the S205. As patterns S205 and S205A are very similar, I would think that the US Catalog Editor would correct the user name of pattern S205 to "SEALSHIPT".



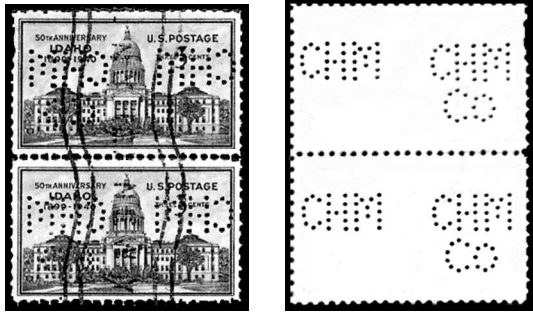
The fifth and last discovery cover is franked with a very common perfin (E63, "E" rated [cropped below]). The user of this pattern is identified as "The Employers Liability Assurance Corporation Ltd of London" and it is listed as being used in Boston, MA with a usage time span from 1908 through 1938 issues. US Perfin Catalog Section E-VII Supplemental Information does not give any additional cities of use. However, as this is an insurance company, it conceivably could have had

additional branch offices. And, as this cover shows a return address listed to The Employers Group, 'American Employers' Insurance Company' in San Juan, Puerto Rico with a July 8, 1946 San Juan, PR cancel, I would think that the US Catalog editor might want to include this location in the next A&C pages. Likewise, all "Territorial" perfin collectors will need to be on the look out for another user from Puerto Rico!



## An Interesting And Informative Perfin Pair

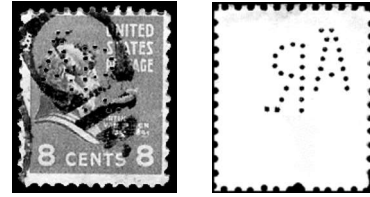
Shown is a pair of 1940 Idaho Statehood 50th Anniversary Commemoratives. It is shown not because it will add anything new to the US Perfin Catalog, but rather to show that you should always be on the lookout for multiples of all types as these are really the only way of ascertaining the validity of catalog information.



In the 1978 US Catalog revision, editors Joseph and Dorothy Balough deleted pattern C153.5 (CHM) the same pattern shown in the pair above. In the 1978 and subsequent US catalogs, we should only see C154 (CHM/CO). This pair is the kind of proof that our editors need to make certain the US Perfin Catalog is as accurate as possible. Remember, examine all your multiples!

### New Pattern?

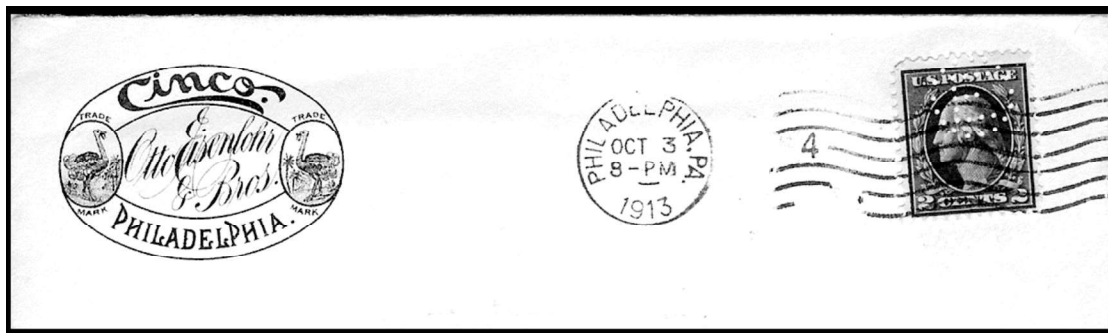
I will forward this one to the current US Catalog editor. At first look this would seem to be an ordinary and probably common "AR" American Radiator Prexy perfin. Being that the control holes, according to the US Perfin Catalog, are found in location 8 and 28, I checked A221-30.5 and A221-30.5B, but this perfin does not come close to matching either.



I checked for other control holes but found none, nor even any indentations - known as "Chads" to those in Florida! I also checked the listings of all AR patterns but found no others with a combination including control holes 8 and 28. After this I checked the deleted section II at the end of the "A" Section. Page A43 shows a deleted perfin - A221-30A which matches my perfin perfectly. As A221-30.5 is a B+ rated and A221-30.5B, an A rated, why are both still listed while A221-30.5A has been deleted. Are they three different heads of the same multi-head perforator? What is the rating of my perfin? Should all head positions be listed? Should only one be listed in the main catalog section with the others in a supplementary section? I do not have the answers but I would suggest that anyone with an opinion on this matter, please write our *Bulletin* editor and/or the US Perfin Catalog editor. Does this reinforce why studying multiples is very valuable?

### Otto Eisenlohr & Bros.

Although I picked this cover up as a cute, clean and not overly expensive cover, the real reason lies in the letter's contents. Established in 1850, Otto Eisenlohr & Bros. used a perforator on stamps issued between 1908 and 1918. The O-26 (C rated) perfin is the letter "E" surrounded by the letter "O". I guessed it would be found in the "E" section of perfins and was quite happy when I could not find it there. "Could I be so lucky as to find a new pattern?" It finally dawned on me to check the "O" section and then reality set in; ...no new pattern! So, why is it in the "O" section anyway?



*Inco*



TRADE MARK.

*Otto Eisenlohr  
Louis H. Eisenlohr  
Chas. F. Eisenlohr*

ESTABLISHED 1850.

*Otto Eisenlohr & Bros.*  
*Manufacturers of*  
*Cigars*

*932 & 934 Market Street,*

*Philadelphia, Oct. 3, 1913*

Mr. Martin Winter,  
Gettysburg, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

We have your communication of the 3rd  
inst., and in response regret to say, that we would  
not be interested in your proposition, that we open  
a cigar factory at Gettysburg, Pa.

Thanking you, however, for your apparent  
interest in the matter, we are,

Very truly yours,

*Otto Eisenlohr & Bros.*

Diet.CJE/C/B

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For those who care, we now know the company did not supply feathers for ladies hats but was a manufacturer of cigars.

### Conclusion

I thought that members might like to see some of these items and maybe even see a little on how I approach perfin collecting. The base common denominator for me is a quest for knowledge because only with knowledge can we get a better understanding of our perfin collecting hobby. The more you know, the more you study your material, the more questions you ask, the more collectors you meet --- the more you will enjoy perfin collecting.

Should you ever have any questions, please always

feel free to call me (508) 478-7303 or e-mail me (perfinman@comcast.net) and I will try to help you in any way that I can. I'm not knowledgeable in all matters of "perfins and perfin collecting" but I know most of the best and well-informed collectors in our hobby. Together we can all grow in the knowledge of perfins, their uses, and their users.

If you have read this article and don't think that it's a great idea to come to next years Perfin Convention in St. Louis, please reread the article.

All items mentioned herein were found at the Madison Convention – as were some very nice and very knowledgeable collectors, and lots and lots of perfins! Meet me in St. Louie!!! Gee, maybe I write a song around that theme.